

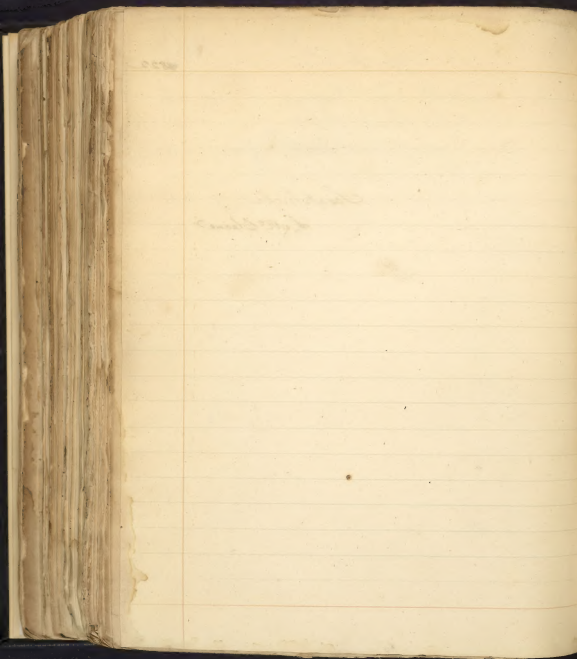
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March 5th

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Scrophula
L. McCleane



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An
Inaugural Essay
on
Scrophula

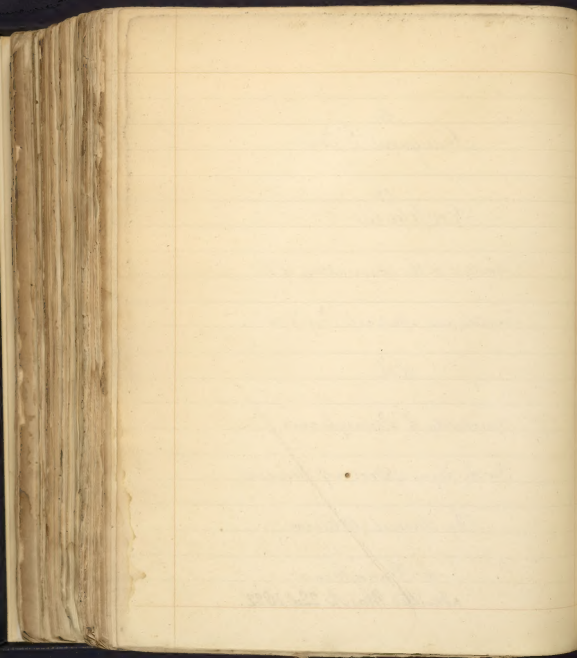
Submitted to the examination of the
Trustees and Medical Professors
of the

University of Pennsylvania

For the degree of Doctor of Medicine

By Samuel McClean

of Pennsylvania
admitted March 22d 1822

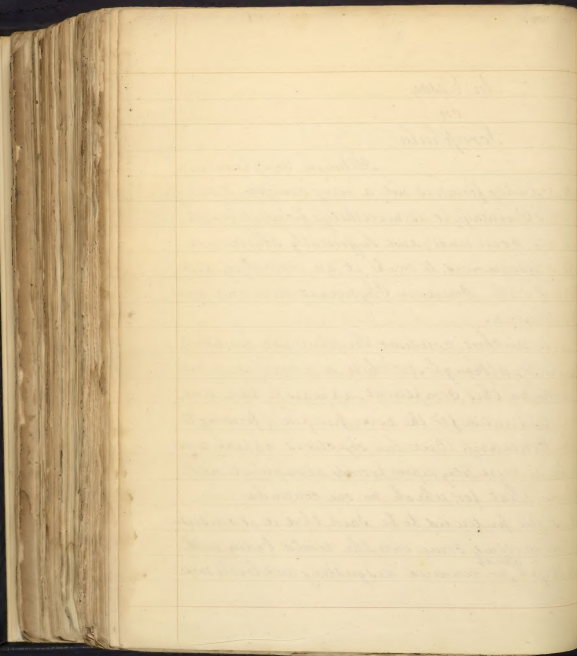


An Essay
on
Scrophula

Although Scrophula in its ordinary forms, is not a very common disease of this Country, it is nevertheless frequent enough, in its occurrence, and sufficiently alarming in its consequences, to make it an interesting subject for the American Physicians care and investigation.

Most authors consider Scrophula, an hereditary disease; although W. White, a name of some authority in this Complaint, appears to have written his treatise for the very purpose of proving to the contrary. But his objections appear to me to be a mere play upon words, attempting to overthrow that for which no one contends.

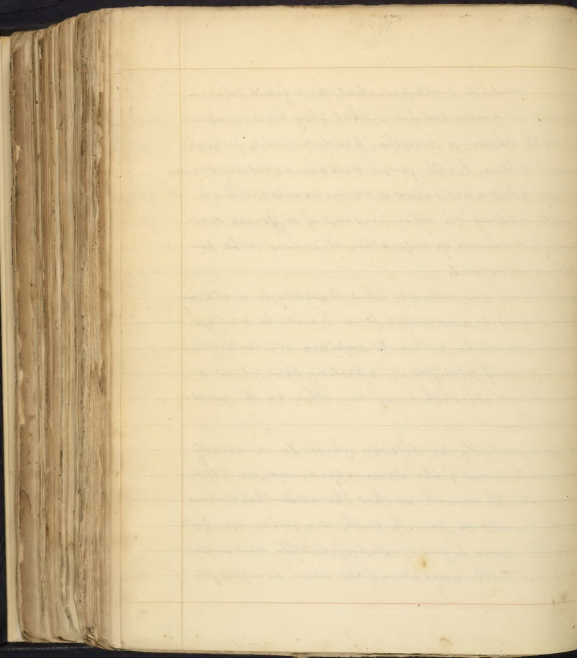
It is not pretended to be said, that it is a disease whose victims, come into the world laden with enlarged ^{glands}, or rendered disgusting and loathsome.



by being covered with purulent, and fetid ulcers.
All that is contended for is, that they have transmitted with them, a peculiar predisposition, which renders them liable, from certain exciting causes, to have this particular action excited, which causes, acting on other persons of different constitutions would excite other diseases or be perfectly innocuous.

The manner in which this liability, to certain diseases is transmitted, from parent to child, I shall ^{not} undertake, either to explain or investigate; feeling myself justified in asserting, that it is as fact as well established as any other in the annals of medicine.

There is probably no disease, which so invariably attacks persons of the same appearance, and temperament. So much is this the case that writers on this subject, mark with singular uniformity the same signs of susceptibility, and employ with but little variation the same language,

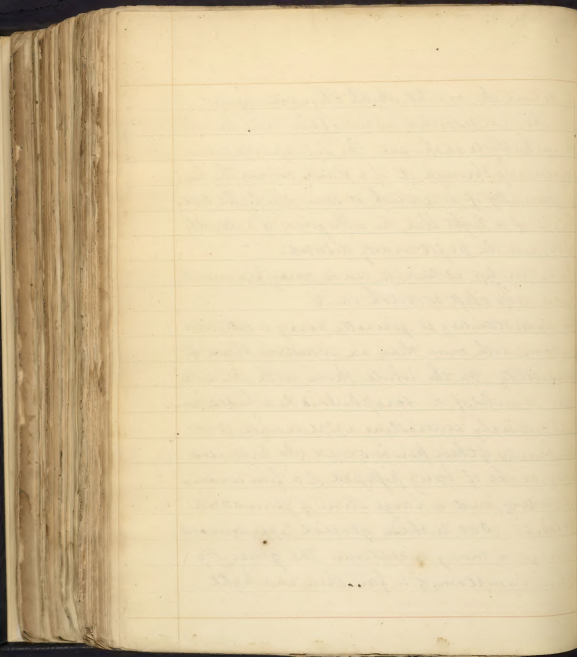


to detail the marks which characterize it.

The skin is described as being fair, delicate, and remarkably transparent, the superficial veins, appearing through it of a bluish colour. The hair, is generally of a reddish, or some other light tint. The eyes of a light blue, the albuginea of a deadly white, and the pupil widely dilated.

The upper lip is tumid, and very frequently has a deep cleft or notch in it.

The understanding is generally very acute, and endowed with more than an ordinary share of Sensibility. On the whole those with the external marks, of a scrophulous diathesis, have a peculiarly interesting appearance, from the beauty of their persons, and the promises they make of being possessed of a fine understanding, and a large share of genius and talent. But to these general appearances, there are many exceptions. The generally cited symptom, of a fair skin and light



rare occurs often wanting. The greatest number
of the cases of Scrophulous, which I have seen,
happened in those with dark skins, and
brown hair; in whom I have not seen a case
created by Mr Gibson. Mr White also remarks
"The most distinct marking mark is a dusky little
tubercle, when in health, & is more prominent
than; I do not mean by this the colour, but the
thickness of the skin".

The disease may happen in a person with but
few of these external marks, but when they all
combine in the same person, it is a mark of the
most exquisitely formed Scrophulous constitution.
Females from the greater delicacy of their struc-
ture, are said to be more liable to this disease
than males. But it is not confined to any
age or sex. Still there are certain periods of life,
at which it is most liable to make its appear-
ance, which is from three to seven years.

It is also more apt to occur in temperate,

than either the very warm or cold climates.

Scrophuila, mostly, makes its appearance gradually; first by a thickening of the upper lip. the skin grows scaly, and at length the eyelids swell and become red, and finally some of the superficial lymphatic glands of the neck or some other part of the body become enlarged, but are neither painful or discoloured and ^{are} ~~are~~, or very, few marks of common inflammation. They frequently remain in this enlarged, indolent state, a long time, and finally disappear; or they may progress on to suppuration, presenting an ulcer, with the following appearances: It is of a pale red or purplish colour, the edges are thin, and its surface somewhat below the level of the surrounding parts, it has not much appearance of inflammation, and is not attended with any great uneasiness. The matter discharged is



transparent, and of a greenish colour, and sometimes has a very fetid smell. The matter is frequently viscid, and adheres to the surface of the sore. The at times, tho' rarely I believe, put on a cancerous appearance, having indurated edges and fungous granulations, accompanied with an ichorous discharge. These ulcers, may continue open, discharging matter, for an indefinite length of time.

Notwithstanding the generally slow, and indolent tendency, of these scrophulous enlargements of the lymphatic glands, they are sometimes very rapid, both in their progress and termination. "I have seen" says "Riussell" these soft swellings, though I confess but seldom, rise suddenly. Sometimes in the course of a single night. But here he confesses such cases have occurred to him but seldom, and says they must be considered

as exceptions to a general rule. Thus may a
person be affected with these ulcers, every
year for a number of years, breaking out
in the Spring, and healing ^{the end of} ten or twelve months,
until they finally disappear altogether.
which is an account of the mildest case of
Scrophula we meet with, and is unfortu-
nately the least common.

This disorder is more frequently highly painful,
and disagreeable in its progress, and still
more melancholy in its termination, according
to the part in which the Stimmous action
is located. Those ulcers by their long contin-
uance often expand to the base, causing painful
and tedious exfoliations. When they occur
in the neighborhood of a joint as they very
frequently do, we have one of the most tin-
gering and troublesome affections, with
which the surgeon has to contend.
In these cases the joint enlarges, & extreme

ly painful and after a while the swelling,
throats and discharges a great quantity of
matter, without diminishing the size of the
part. The ulcers formed in these cases, are
frequently the most difficult to distinguish
from those caused by the common phlegmonous
inflammation, if any resulting from the
scrupulous action. In making up our di-
agnosis we are to take into consideration
the history of the case - the appearance of the
patient, and the nature of the discharge.
In this state they remain a long time, atten-
ded by a profuse discharge, and continue
irritation, leaving the practitioner in con-
stant anxiety, and doubt whether he shall
continue his local, and general remedies,
or lop off the limb, to save his patient from
the direful effects of hectic fever.
If it should be the patients misfortune, to have
his ulcers healed, he is left with a joint un-

naturally enlarged & crippled in its motions.

The Mesenteric glands, in this disease are almost invariably in a disordered state, which is characterised by a weak debilitated state of the system, mostly termed cachectic. The patient on the slightest ~~on the slightest~~ exercise, will complain of the greatest fatigue and exhaustion, the pulse is to be frequent and sinking, and the bowels either distended with large accumulations of faeces, or affected with an unceasing diarrhoea.

But I believe the most frequent as well as the most fatal seat of the disease in this country, is the Lungs; and as it occurs most frequently in those, who on many accounts must be very dear, to the feeling Physician. I shall dwell on it at some length.

Scrophula, although acknowledged to be a very frequent cause of tubercular consumption by many authors, has not been made by

any more - have examined the subject of particular considerations.

Cullen considers a scrophulous constitution, one of the most frequent causes of Phthisis, for clinical reasons, viz. Its so generally occurring, when there is a scrophulous diathesis, its so frequently being produced by tubercles, and it is so often coexistent, with a scrophulous infection of some other part of the body.

He also says it is apt to occur, in persons whose parents had in some part of their life, been affected with scrophula in some of its forms, or had shown a disposition to it.

And further, its victims have the external marks of a scrophulous disposition, such as "fine skin, rose complexion large veins soft flesh and thick upper lip". This would appear to be evidence sufficient, to establish, the intimate connection between the two diseases. But we have further evidence from the cir

circumstances, that when we remove a disease, decidedly acknowledged to be infectious, from a remote part of the body, it is frequently found on the lungs, and even as the patient off with all the symptoms of consumption, taken on a consumption. For a knowledge of this fact, I am indebted to the observations of Dr. Gibson.

The various similitude between tubercles of the lungs, and scrophulous humours of other parts, is too many to enter upon. I am told that tubercles are bodies varying in size, from a grain of sand, to that of a chestnut. That they are indolent at first, and at last take on some degree of inflammation; grow more vascular, and finally become firm in abscess, discharging a purulent matter, or contain a cheese-like substance.

A patient may also at certain seasons of the year, show slight symptoms of pulmonary consumption which will be relieved by an expectoration of purulent matter. Dr. Chapman explains

To be one, or more of these vessels, running ^{then} ~~the~~ course, and then healing up.
From this and the account previously given,
of a scrophulous ulcer, the similarity of their
appearance, progress & termination, must be
sufficiently obvious. It has been stated by some
persons, that tubercles were actually enlarge-
ments of the absorbent glands of the Lungs; but
to this it has been objected, that very few absor-
bent vessels, have been demonstrated in these organs.
To conceive, however, of their being truly scrophu-
lous, it does not appear necessary that they should
be glands, as I don't consider it absolutely essen-
tial, to have an absorbent gland to produce
a scrophulous enlargement. Or if we must have
glandular structure, somehow or other designed
to explain these appearances, I am not aware
that it would be much repugnant, to our
preconceived notions of the organization, and
functions of a secretory organ, to view the

lungs themselves in that light.

The reason why a scrophulous tendency, most generally located itself on the lungs in this country, is very plain. It is well known that delicacy of clothing, and a generous diet, are the most active, as well as the most frequent exciting causes of the disease in its ordinary form. Now these evils comparatively speaking, are almost unknown, in our happy and highly favoured country. On the other hand the lungs are acknowledged to be the most sensible organs of our system, to the variations of temperature. Indeed almost all their diseases, can be traced to the agency of this single cause. To an accustomary the practice of females, in bandaging, corsetting, & staying the chest may also be added. Here then is an explanation, why we have so much pulmonary Consumption, and also why "Nature's fairest, best gift" should so often be the subject of this deoulful, & unrelenting, scourge.

The causes which act on a scrophulous diathesis,
to excite the disease are numerous, from which
I shall only select the most prominent.

It has already been stated, that want of clothing, and
a miserably penurious diet are causes, pregnant
and powerful, to which may be added, variations
of weather, as frequent changes, from hot to cold,
wet to dry &c. Cold itself may excite the disease,
but more particularly when combined with mucus-
ture. Cases have been related where these two
causes combined have excited the disease in
one night: Other diseases more particularly,
small pox, Measles, Scarlatina and Dues Venerea.

On the Proximate cause, I might give the list
of the various opinions
of many very respectable authorities.

But this I shall decline believing with Mr. White,
"that it is often much easier to cure a disease,
than to ascertain its proximate cause."

Conceding it to be a disease, & the universal
system, my knowledge of that class of vessels,

is too limited, to offer a plausible theory, supported by facts, of any of its diseases; we can content myself with observing, that I believe it to be a hereditary debility, of those vessels, and that when the vessels which produce scrophulous, are reduced their primary effects are extended to the distant organs, which by the sympathetic connexion between them, are the accidents, the latter arise on their own peculiar diseases actions. That the first links of morbid affections, is in the digestive apparatus, is rendered evitable from the symptoms which attend the disease. That derangements of the nervous system, excite the peculiar diseases of the lung which happens to be in a debilitated condition, is most conclusively shewn by Dr. Phlegman, in many of his pathological disquisitions. Thus a person exposed to the effects of marsh effluvia ^{always} ~~may~~ ^{is} seen on the lungs to be in a weak debilitated



condition, & is affected with ophthalmia, or
if it can be proved to be a disease, we have a
case of rheumatism. On the same principle, does
intermittent exanthema, Phlegm, Hysteria &c.
the nervous system being in an irritable state.
This opinion of the disease, I think is supported not
only by the symptoms of the disease, and by the suc-
cessful medical treatment, but also by the very highest
Authority.

Treatment

Like all other diseases of a specific
nature, the cure of Scrophula was thought in
some measure to depend on specific remedies.
Consequently we find, that the treatment was
conducted for a long time, on principles now
then empirical.

Specifics are now discarded, and the celebra-
ted remedy, of the "Kings touch" lies quietly
beside its scarcely less celebrated subject the

minute of time.

In detailing the method of cure, which I shall recommend, it will be divided into the general and local.

Among the conclusions which Dr. Lloyd draws from his observations on the disease, he finds the following viz. "That the disease may generally be prevented by avoiding all the exciting causes, which have a direct influence in disturbing the general health."

"And that the disease is only to be cured, by avoiding all sources of irritation, and by restoring the natural and healthy functions of the digestive organs."

These conclusions may be made the foundation, of the two general indications to be observed, in the treatment not only of those, who are predisposed to the disease, but also when it is actually excited.

Climate and Temperature, are acknowledged

to have such a powerful influence, in exciting
this disease, that we have men, authorities, who
declare, that the combined influence of these causes
often excite the disease, as active in those who
were not originally predisposed to it.

Consulted in the case of person with the common
signs of a Strumous Constitution, it is our duty,
to pay strict attention to these considerations.

It becomes necessary to remove the patient, to a more
salubrious and temperate climate. With respect to
the advantages of a situation, in the neighbourhood
of the sea, where sea bathing can be used much
contrariety of opinion prevails. That sea bath-
ing is sometimes highly useful, cannot be doubt-
ed, but indiscriminately used it is equally
certain that it is often highly pernicious.

It appears to me that the remedy, cannot be, prop-
er in systems of high action, or on the contrary,
where there is so much debility, as to prevent
that degree of reaction, which causes a given

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It is not a matter of course, by no means, that
these have very important effects.

It is not a matter of course, by no means, that
any confidence in the truth of the doctrine is not
only in a majority of cases, but actually
remove the real causes when they have not
taken place, and prevent the disease from
taking into effects, in which it is not only more
dangerous and unmanageable, but sometimes
completely incurable.

It is not a matter of course, by no means, that
some persons, before the disease is taken into
effect, have, in the matter of the disease, some
degree of confidence, which, in the matter of
the disease, is not a matter of course, by no means,
that some persons, before the disease is taken into
effect, have, in the matter of the disease, some
degree of confidence, which, in the matter of
the disease, is not a matter of course, by no means.

Some of the persons may have, in the matter of
the disease, some degree of confidence, which, in
the matter of the disease, is not a matter of course,
by no means.



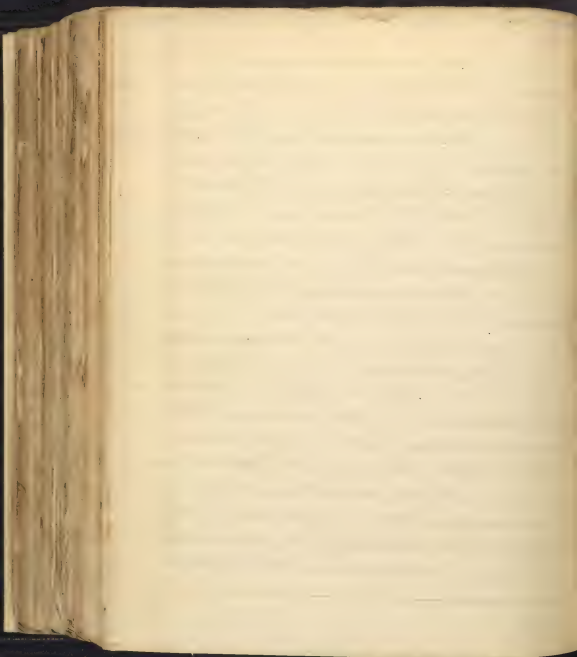
It is one of the great; in some of the joints
may be deeply reached, remaining to one of ex-
citation, as a sense of heat, force and its con-
comitants. In all these cases the general measures
are nearly the same, consisting as it is all other cases
thus regard, must be paid to the state of the sys-
tem. In these cases it may be said that as a gen-
eral rule, to which there are considerable excep-
tions, that the symptoms are more the least
of it, it is more a disease, and more a state
of inflammation as the primary, in the
disease, it must be said to the patient, it is
ed for you a temporary degree of debility,
may be induced which will render it hazar-
dous to the patient.

There is also a more or less of the state of the system
of the digestion is good or very bad, which shows
itself by a debility or feeble appetite, fever
tongue, and other dyspeptic symptoms; and the
cause are either in a local condition, or in the



moderately distended with fluid. They must be
doubtless in the general plan of treatment, Emol-
lents should not be overlooked. Even when acknowl-
edged beneficial effects, in all dissipated attended
with derangement of the alimentary canal, suc-
cess their power of exciting to activity, is not
lost, and it is not to be wondered at that
they sooner have been so generally overlooked in
this disease. Notwithstanding such is the fact.
In all the authors whose writings I have exam-
ined, they have not been noticed. Dr Chapman
whose accurate and discriminating observations,
surely, permits a symptom, and its appropriate
remedy to pass unnoticed, is the only person, and
for a long time, I have been obliged to re-
sponded the remedy. In these cases I would have
no hesitation, in placing considerable reliance
on their efficacy, and should recommend them
with some degree of confidence.

Cathartics I am in favor of, but not



and are no doubt very well adapted, can require
to be continued until the bowels are regularly
evacuated. In some cases as the Hip Joint disease,
and white swelling, they constitute the treatment,
on which our chief reliance is to be placed.

In the authority of Dr Physick, and we would
in vain look for better, patients who were in the
greatest degree of debility, and emaciation have
been known literally to become fat, under the
continued use of active cathartics.

Their *modus operandi*, under such circumstan-
ces, has been very happily given by Dr Cox.

I recollect to see, his opinion is that chron-
ic diseases, require chronic remedies, and that
cathartics by their long continuance have an
alteration effect, thus giving the system a
chance of resuming its healthy functions.

The generality of cases will most probably not
require so free a use of purgative medi-
cines. After having completely evacuated the intestinal

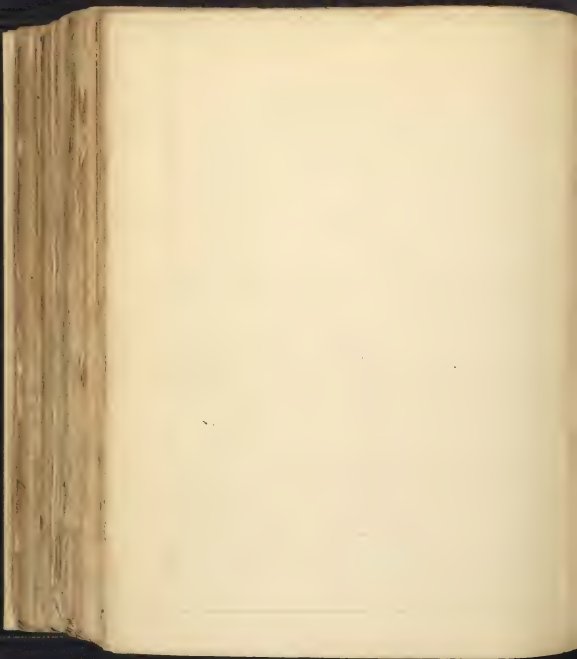


cannot give a shew. - I trust with a stock of
the most improved medicine, and the most accurate
directions, a physician will be enabled to cure a
case of this kind. - The only medicine
that I have seen for the cure of this
disease, with the name of the London physicians, is the
proper medicine.

We sometimes find the stomach much affected
with acidities, in such a case the exhibition of
some alkaline mixture will be necessary.

After having gone thus far, we may conclude that
the system is prepared for the exhibition of the
Medicines; at the head of which stands the Peru-
vian Bark. This medicine at one time, had the
confidence of some eminent physicians.

Whether or not it has any advantages, over articles
of the same class, must soon shew that you are
the power of this bark. It does not, as you say, will
I think, not be attributed to any specific quality.
As being one of our very best tonics, it will be



It is not to be a wide range of colors, but
to take colors as the imagination will often con-
ceive. It is not necessary to copy out a picture
of a landscape between red and blue, and then
not to extend the color; for the color is not
nearly so good as the original.

In comparison of the water with the Brook, the
colorful colors are very proper. The colors
to be applicable to the same color, and must be
used to the same color.

he not having read it when recommended by
Trotter, he states upon the subject in a rough
and condition of the manuscript as well as
the patient now bears.

but under the same personal Names, with the author-
ity of ^{the} Congress I should prefer the more direct
threats of a law to your consideration, and
recommend it to be taken into the
large quantities, and of great extent, to the
State shall I say of money, in any form or



stage of his life, and then I was enabled to
say, that out with the determined and
resolute mind of a man, I have been
convinced that I must have been subjected, by
the preponderating weight of authority. But on
further examination, and especially after hearing
the lecture of the professor of the practice of physic,
on this subject, I cannot but feel myself justified
from theoretical views to oppose rather, though
and so justly entitled to confidence.

In speculation opinions were entirely drawn,
from considering Tubercular consumption,
as caused by derangements of the ^{which} in it
are supported in another part of this paper; In
which case, mercury is almost without an ex-
ception contraindicated. This apparent inconsisten-
cy may be reconciled, by the well known fact,
that diseased vessels acquire a peculiar modification
from being located in different parts.

It is only necessary further to observe, that these



who recommend it caution us, not to push it
so far as to waste salivations, obtaining its alter-
ative effect alone.

White placed his chief reliance on this mode
of treatment, and Lloyd recommends pretty
much the same kind of practice.

With respect to the efficacy of warm air or
bathing, there can be no doubt. In the chronic
cases, these remedies should be used, there may
be at times some difficulty in deciding.

I will most probably reserve the trial of cold
bathing, before its applicability can be known.

On the contrary, there are very few cases in which
the warm bath will not only be proper, but highly
grateful and beneficial to the patient, and may
be used through the whole course of the complaint.
It relieves the dryness and roughness of the skin, gives
ease and comfort to the patient, and prepares the
system for the use of the Cold Bath.

In cases of great irritation and where the ulcers,



Counterfeit for appearance of Lincolin, and the
the narcotic articles have been used, but could
appear to be the one which has retained the most
confidence. So effectual was it thought at one time,
that it was celebrated as a specific. Still it is not
admitted to merit such a title, it is nevertheless
one of some attention. Dr. Wilson has found it
so frequently successful, that he declares when
it has failed in his hands, he has attributed it
to the badness of the preparation, rather than
a want of power in the article. He recommends
it to be used in the form of an emulsion, beginning
with small doses and gradually increased, to be taken
in the twenty four hours. If it causes nausea, & if
desired, the quantity is to be ^{the medicine} increased
for a short time.

Urethane of Lime is highly celebrated by Weddell,
has entirely lost its reputation also since the
these specific remedies, of ephemeral celebrity,
of which the records of medicine afford so many



relaxing the cutaneous.

Best Treatment. I have already mentioned
just above, for the treatment of the disease, the
system of Dr. Hegan, but in the details of the case, according
to the little more has been mentioned. I have been
recommended by the best authorities. According to
the system to be constituted, it is the nature, it is the
from observation that best treatment, can have but
little direct and its effects, which can only be ascertained
by observing the marked actions of the system, and restoring
its tone to the healthy standard. If the skin & glands &
tissues, are inflamed and painful, it will be necessary
to apply leeches to them. This practice has been abandoned
by some, on account of their belief in the danger of
the ulcers. But their application has been successful
in such good certainty, that it is not to be denied. Its
utility is the generality of cases, in which the system
is very relaxed, and the skin & glands & tissues are
inflamed. But if the skin & glands & tissues are
inflamed, as if they are, it will be necessary to apply leeches to them.



[illegible]



simplest secret, & the most common; cold water
may also at times ^{may} be usefully applied, and if longer
necessary, a small quantity of the volatile spirit
may be added to it. When this is undeluted, more
stimulating applications should be applied, as
a solution of Sulphate of Zinc, or a poultice of
Bees made up with a strong solution of Bleeding
Salt. The ulcers sometimes put on a fungous
appearance, and become fungous. Here the applica-
tion of Caustic is necessary; and poultices of circular
pew, carrots, or flaxseed covered with the bark
of Hemlock. The nitric acid as before mentioned, is
probably as important as any. But these local appli-
cations are extremely numerous, and should be varied
until we obtain the one most suitable to the particu-
lar case under treatment.

I have in the foregoing Essay, given as condensed
an account of the simplest and best
of Scrophula, as my limited knowledge of the sub-
ject would permit. It will be perceived I have



and in the course of the present year, I have
suggested my new method of dissection.

The rules of this university, proposed to be revised, re-
sulted in a memorial letter, which is annexed
to this, and I have not yet sent, before I write. I have in-
quired, however, on receiving it, on a subject, of some
kind, more, in the illustration of which, I have been
the slightest reliance, on my own observations or re-
sources. In making it, my decision, I have been
which appeared to me the least objectionable and
which I thought it probable, I could collect materials
more abundant, to complete it, which might an-
swer the purpose for which it is intended.

It will be perceived, I have not treated of the death
which afflicts, of many infant and parts. It would
have taken more time, and require more research
than I could possibly devote to it. It may probably
be a problem, which I have given some account of the
in the course of the disease, as it appears in the
lungs. Would to Heaven I could devote some



method of treatment, that even in a majority of cases would be found successful.

But it ~~is~~ always, sooner or later had a fatal termination. This is a reflection which to the benevolent Physician, is attended with sensations of the most lively regret; not only from the odium it casts on a beloved profession, but from the subjects who are the victims of its unrelenting ravages. They are in a multitude of cases; the daughters of Beauty, the sons of Genius, and the disciples of the Midnight Lamp. And he who is so fortunate as to discover a remedy, whereby it may be robbed of its fatal power, ~~must~~ be crowned with an enviable immortality, and will be allotted a place in the temple of Fame, by the side of the immortal Sennar.

I now submit, this my first essay at medical Composition, sensible that here as well as in the examination, I am shortly to undergo the greatest indulgence will be required.

